

- (b) if the well is about a furlong off, will the Government be pleased to provide it with a hand pump, a cistern and a few yards of pipe to take water to the village;
- (c) is it not a fact that the villagers require water from the well only for about four months in the year;
- (d) is it not possible to supply water at their very doors by the expenditure of about fifty rupees a year by employing two coolies?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

- (a) $1\frac{3}{4}$ furlongs.
- (b) No.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) It may be possible. But does not seem to be necessary.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): Have not the people to carry water for $1\frac{3}{4}$ furlongs?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I will explain. Last year we had to bring water from a distance. But now there is a good well and plenty of water. We have only to carry the water for two furlongs. If we are to supply pipe lines to all the villages like that, it will be almost impossible to meet the expenditure necessary from the ordinary funds, because we will have to appoint somebody there.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): It is only by way of rural development that I say that.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): But I do not think that to get water from a distance of a furlong or two will entail very great hardship.

RICE DEPOTS OPENED BY PANCHAYATS—PARTICULARS REGARDING

123. **Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether any Village Panchayat in Cochin State has been allowed to open rice depots with a view to safeguard against the rise in prices of food-stuffs due to war;
- (b) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative, the names of Panchayats, which were allowed to open such depots;

- (c) from where did these Panchayats get their supply of rice;
- (d) the quantity of rice sold from these depots during the first quarter of 1115 M. E.;
- (e) the amounts realised in such depots from sale of food-stuffs;
- (f) the amount invested by the Government for the equipping of these depots with measures, weights, etc., and also to defray the house rent of these depots;
- (g) whether paid servants were employed to run these depots; if so, how many were appointed and at what pay?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Sanction to open rice depots under certain rules and conditions laid down for their proper management was communicated to all the Panchayats. A few of them came forward accepting the conditions while others wanted to get additional information about the depots. The President of Kattakampal and Porkulam Panchayats were the two who volunteered to take up the responsibility and hence a depot each was allowed in these two Panchayats.
- (c) Ancheri Lonappan Vareed, General merchant and Commission Agent, Trichur.
- (d) A total quantity of 259 *para*hs, 2 *edangalies* and 2 *nazhies* of rice was sold in these depots up to 15th Thulam 1115.
- (e) An amount of Rs. 248—5—11 was realised in these depots from the sale of food-stuffs up to the 15th Thulam 1115.
- (f) Measures to the value of Re. 0—10—9 were purchased from the Tahsildar, Talappalli for use in the depot at Porkulam. No amount was spent for purchasing weights and measures for the depot at Kattakampal. No amount was spent towards rent for both these depots.
- (g) Yes. One in each depot at the rate of annas 4 per day.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ: കമ്പളത്തി പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ ഒരു അരി ഡെപ്പോ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നുവോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ: അത് അനുവദിച്ചു വാ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: അനുവദിച്ചു. പത്തു നാലുത് മാക്കു അരി വേണമെന്ന് പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അത് അനുവദിക്കാനിടയായിട്ടില്ല. അവർക്ക് ഏതാണു വേണ്ടത് എന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ അത് ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ആർഡർ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ: അതുപ്രകാരം അവിടെ അരിഡെപ്പോ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുവോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കറിവില്ല. ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നവർക്ക് ഒക്കെ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ ആർഡർ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനുവേണ്ടുന്ന ഫണ്ടും കൊടുക്കുവാൻ വിരോധമില്ലെന്നും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): May I know, Sir, whether these two depots are still functioning?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): No. I think they are closed down now. The purpose for which they were started has already ceased to exist and so they are closed down.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ: ഈ ഡെപ്പോകൾക്കൊണ്ട് വല്ല നഷ്ടവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: സാധാരണമായി അരി കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ളപ്പോഴല്ലെ ഡെപ്പോകളുടെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളു?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: പ്രൈസ് റെഗുലേററു ചെയ്യുവാൻ.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: അരികിട്ടാത്ത അവസരത്തിലല്ല പ്രൈസ് റെഗുലേററു ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുള്ളു?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: അത്രയുള്ളു. അല്ലാതെ കച്ചവടക്കാരുമായിട്ടു മത്സരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതല്ല.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): May I know how this Ancheri Lonappan Vareed came to be entrusted with this business of supplying rice to these depots?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): Because the Director of Panchayats was given permission to purchase rice from the Trichur market for distribution in the neighbouring Panchayats. I thought it will be very inconvenient and costly to remove rice from Mattancheri to those places.